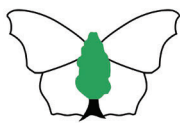


Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 118



Butterfly
Conservation

April 2025

Butterfly Identification Course

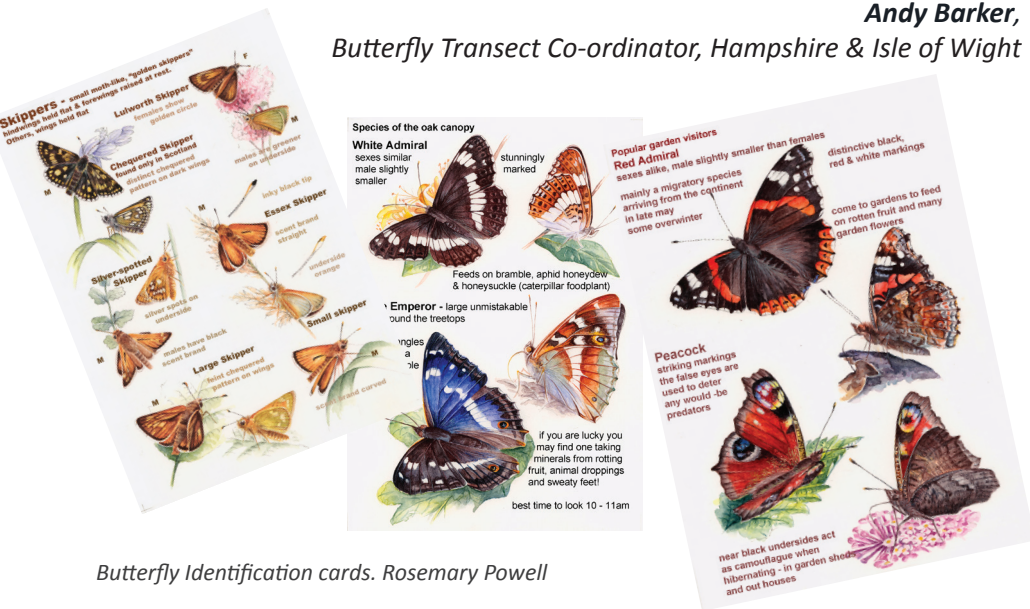
For some years I've been asking Butterfly Conservation for recordings of an online butterfly identification course that I ran in 2020 and 2021 to be made available to all BC volunteers. The course comprises five one-hour sessions, systematically going through each of the UK butterfly species and how to identify them, plus a final session on day-flying moths. I'm pleased to say that four butterfly identification recordings are now available via 'Assemble' (Butterfly Conservation's volunteer portal). Hopefully the presentation on day-flying moths will become available in due course.

If you'd like to view the recordings as a refresher to butterfly identification, whether you're a beginner or someone who wants to develop your knowledge and skills further, you'll need to be registered on Assemble as a BC volunteer. Once registered, you need to log into Assemble, and then go to the **Document hub**. Then click on **G. Recording and Monitoring**, and drill down further by clicking on **Butterfly Identification**, then **Butterfly Identification Course**.

Finally, I'd just like to wish you all a successful and enjoyable 2025 butterfly recording season, hopefully with plenty of warm sunny weather!

Andy Barker,

Butterfly Transect Co-ordinator, Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Butterfly Identification cards. Rosemary Powell

Branch Main Committee Statement to Members

As mentioned in our recent e-newsletter, Butterfly Conservation is having to make some difficult decisions due to financial pressures. In particular, BC is going through a restructuring, with a need to reduce the number of employees, which includes all reserve staff. The future of BC's reserves, including our three Hampshire reserves, will be discussed in due course.

The Main Committee is extremely disappointed that such significant decisions are being made by BC Head Office, with no input from the branch. After much discussion, I can confirm that all the Main Committee members have individually come to the decision to stand down from their respective roles. We will ensure that activities we contribute to will be left in a good state for others to pick up, should any members wish to come forward.

Whatever the future holds for the society, we will all continue to do our best for butterflies and moths.

BC Head Office has been informed of these actions and will be the primary point of contact for branch members should you have any queries, which should be addressed to info@butterfly-conservation.org.

I would like to sign off by thanking all members for your dedication and enthusiasm. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the Main Committee for making my time as Chair so enjoyable. I would also like to thank the many members of our subcommittees, as well as those in non-committee roles, but whose efforts have been essential to the functioning of the branch.

Pete Eeles

Butterfly Conservation Senior Leadership Team Statement

As Pete explains, regrettably the financial situation for charities is extremely challenging at present, and sadly, Butterfly Conservation is not immune to this. Very difficult decisions are having to be made in order to safeguard our important work for the future. Like many other charities, we are devastated to be losing talented and experienced staff as a result of this.

We have been very grateful for the support and understanding of our Branches at this difficult time. We recently invited all Branches to share any concerns with the Senior Leadership Team, Chair and Vice-Chair of Trustees and explore how we can work together to ensure that vital local conservation and engagement work continues.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers on the Hampshire Branch committee for their considerable contribution to our work in the area and wish them all the best for the future.

Kate Barrett



Reserves News

It's not been a good start to the year. Someone smashing up the 'Dogs on Leads' signs, graffiti sprayed over the side of the container, and a sheep attacked and badly injured by a dog at Yew Hill. It's been an eye-opener how many people blatantly ignore 'Sheep Grazing – Dogs on Leads' signs. We now have a policy of 'No Dogs' at Yew Hill when the sheep are there.

A shining light through it all has of course been the reserves volunteers. They have done an incredible amount of work clearing scrub, footpaths, repairing fences and given endless help. Each reserve has an awesome volunteer team I can rely on and together we have kept the reserves in good shape.

Magdalen Hill Down

The gorgeous cows and sheep bring Magdalen Hill to life in the depths of winter. The cows have been in the main Pathfield, often accompanied by Roe deer and even Skylarks this early in the season. The cows don't seem bothered by the joggers and all the people going by. The sheep will graze the Hillside and the Allotments before heading off for summer. The Livestock Lookers made sure the troughs were clear of ice during the cold weather.

There are still lots of birds such as Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Stonechat, Redwing and, of course, Kestrel and Red Kite. I saw the moment a stoat killed a rabbit – fascinating to see.





All images Fiona Scully. From previous page.

Magdalen Hill Down

The MHD volunteers.

Sheltering.

Cows in Pathfield.

Yew Hill

Neil and Sheep at Yew Hill.

Yew Hill.

Bentley Station Meadow

The BSM crew.

Yew Hill

Southern Water have completed the new reservoir at Hill Top. They will be sowing some seed collected from the Extension field at Magdalen Hill Down this spring for grassland restoration and hope to collect more seed from the Extension field in mid-August. There is the possibility we may get grazing back at Hill Top this year and be able to start the transect again.

Bentley Station Meadow

I'm thrilled to see the wildflowers returning with Primrose already trying to flower and Betony spreading all over. The reserve is looking like it should and not just a total thicket of bramble. We left patches of young Blackthorn around the edges of the meadow for the Brown Hairstreak.

We just need the butterflies to come back! It shows how weather has the biggest impact.



Butterfly Conservation Restructure

Sadly, this restructure has resulted in my South Downs Landscape Officer role coming under review. The post may well change so this means there are no planned reserve walks or volunteer field trips. Farewell, stay safe and do continue to enjoy the reserves.

Fiona Scully

Photographic Competition 2024 Results

The standard of photographic entries to the Photographic Competition at the Branch Members' Day in November was once again exceptional.

The results and a selection of the winning entries are shown here. Congratulations to all of the winners and I look forward to another competition later this year. Wishing everyone a successful season for 2025.

The results are:

UK Butterflies

- 1st Sheila Williams – Painted Lady (see the back cover)
- 2nd *Sheila Williams – Small Skipper
- Joint 3rd Peter Hunt – Long-tailed Blue
- Joint 3rd Helen Pinchin – Brimstones

UK Moths

- 1st Brian Cartwright – Hummingbird Hawk-moth
- 2nd Anne Hobbs – Silver Y
- 3rd Rachel Bebb – Jersey Tiger

Immature stages

- 1st Chris Evans – Miller Moth
- 2nd Lesley Benson – Elephant Hawk-moth

Overseas butterflies and moths

- 1st Francis Plowman – Wood White
- 2nd Helen Pinchin – Swallowtail
- 3rd Denise Healey – Cleopatra

First time entrants

- Joint 1st Lindsay Clifton – Painted Lady
- Joint 1st Chris Evans – Pale Tussock
- 3rd Michael Jones – Chinese Character

***Overall competition winner**



Brian Cartwright
– Hummingbird Hawk-moth.



top left clockwise

Denise Healey – Cleopatra.
Helen Pinchin – Brimstones.
Chris Evans – Miller Moth.
Francis Plowman – Wood White.
Chris Evans – Pale Tussock.

Lee Hurrell

North Baddesley Nature Reserve

Well, what can I say about 2024 that you don't already know? Only 27 butterfly species seen. I know some people would say that is still very good, but not when you consider 31 species were seen in 2023.

I am pleased to say that most species were still seen in good numbers, apart from Holly Blue, Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell and Purple Emperor.

For some reason, possibly attributed to climate change, I did not see any Brown Argus, Small Heath, Dingy Skipper or Clouded Yellow. All of these species have been seen here in previous years. Those butterflies that were observed were seen at unusual times and for shorter periods. Luckily (if you can call it that) this seems to follow countywide trends rather than being an isolated concern for my reserve.



A few other species were very short on numbers including Bee-fly, Six-spot Burnet and wasp spiders. No caterpillars were seen on the nettles for the first time since we started recording.



Reptiles did very well apart from an upsetting sight one day, when I came across three dead adders. Many people, including some experts, looked at the photos and discussed it. Nobody is really sure what killed them but due to the pattern of injuries, pheasants seemed to be the number one suspect.

One bit of good news is that water shrews are now being seen here fairly regularly, which is a new species for my site.

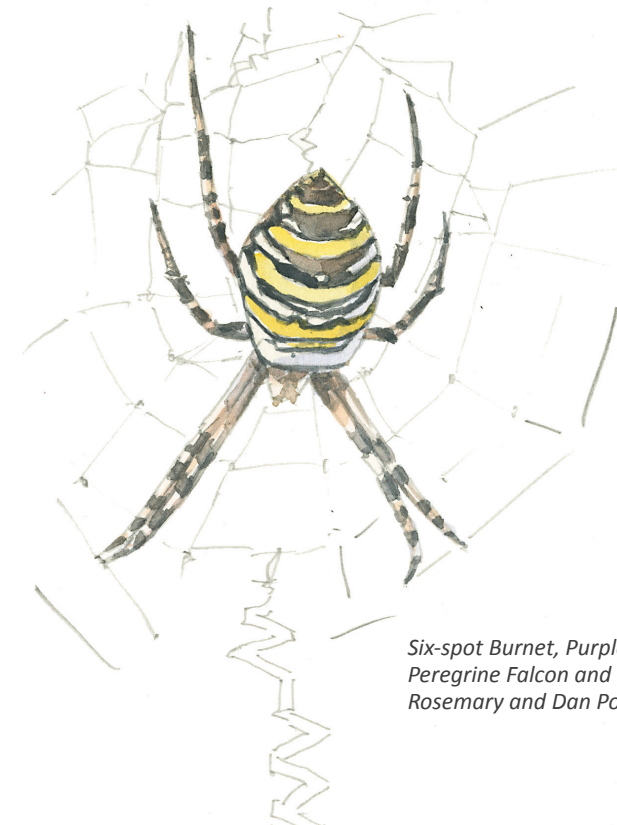
Another mystery occurred. We were noticing an unknown bird now and again but could only determine that it was a type of bird of prey. Anyway, a birder visited and happened to see it and said that it was a peregrine falcon! Since then, it has been seen and heard regularly and one occasion two were heard calling to each other, so hopefully a breeding pair.

If you would like to visit or help with recording, please contact me on the details below.

Kevin Ross

Email: spark.ky@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 02380 733995



*Six-spot Burnet, Purple Emperor,
Peregrine Falcon and Wasp Spider.
Rosemary and Dan Powell*

Branch Field Trip Programmes 2025

Field trips are for everyone. Walks have been arranged across both counties at a variety of interesting sites, aiming to see target species associated with each location at the optimum time in the season.

These field trips can be enjoyed by everyone, whether butterfly-novice or expert. Photographers, children (with adult supervision) and first-time field trippers, **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!** Please wear suitable footwear, and **bring a drink and a packed lunch.**

Rough ground over fields and woods could, most regrettably, make access difficult for those with mobility issues. Please check with the walk leader if in doubt.

This year the walks are listed in chronological sequence, rather than as separate county programmes: Hampshire walks are in blue; Isle of Wight in pink.

The **Hampshire** programme is organised by **Ashley Whitlock**,
Tel: 07752 182340, ashleywhitlock747@gmail.com

The **Isle of Wight** programme is organised by **Kay Shaw**,
Tel: 07562 974343, kay1950shaw@byinternet.com

If the weather is looking dodgy...

If inclement weather is forecast, then please phone the leader of the event. Field trip dates may change if the five-day forecast suggests a planned meeting is likely to be affected by rain and/or stormy conditions.

Alternatively, nearer the time of each field trip, do check postings on:

- Ashley's website: purple-emperor.co.uk

Note: the **parking/meeting point locations** are given in three forms: **satnav postcode**, **OS National Grid reference** and **what3words** – and remember that these locations are **not always** at the featured walk site.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch Walks 2025

APRIL 2025

Saturday 26 April, 1.30pm

Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight

Site: Forestry England

Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

Meet at Parkhurst Forest main car park, **PO30 5LZ**

OS National Grid: **SZ 480900**; what3words: **country.opposites.enlighten**

A woodland walk with uneven paths; wear sturdy footwear

Aiming to see: Brimstone, Comma, Orange-tip, Peacock

Sunday 27 April, 10am

Broxhead Common, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire County Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet at the entrance to the nature reserve on Broxhead Farm Road,
GU35 0NY, lay-by parking, B3004, north of Lindford

OS National Grid: **SU 803374**; what3words: **navigate.adopts.strutting**

Aiming to see: Emperor Moth

Wednesday 30 April, 10am

Portsdown Hill, Hampshire

Site: Portsmouth City Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet at Widley Walk car park, **PO6 3LS**, off B2177, adjacent to The Churchillian pub, just east of Fort Widley

OS National Grid: **SU 660064**; what3words: **store.juror.lock**

Aiming to see: early spring butterflies and moths

MAY 2025

Sunday 4 May, 10am

Butser Hill NNR, Hampshire

Site: Natural England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display), **GU32 1QR**.
A strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Wear sturdy footwear

OS National Grid: **SU 711200**; what3words: **checked.pods.vine**

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper, Dinky Skipper

Sunday 11 May, 10am

West Wood and Crab Wood, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England/Hampshire County Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in Spindle Trees car park, **SO21 2PA**, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks

OS National Grid: **SU 420292**; what3words: **pull.dispose.clenching**

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Wednesday 14 May, 10am

Coulter's Dean, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the country park's Halls Hill car park, **GU31 5SL**, off Kiln Lane, about ½ mile south-west of Buriton

OS National Grid: **SU 733198**; what3words: **jogging.dumpling.sprinkler**

Aiming to see: Green Hairstreak, possible Duke of Burgundy, orchids

Saturday 17 May, 1.30pm

First Glanville Fritillary Walk, **Mottistone chalk pits, Isle of Wight**

Site: National Trust

Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

Meet in the Jubilee Car Park, Lynch Lane, Brighstone, **PO30 4JH**
OS National Grid: **SZ 420845**; what3words: **oxidation.serves.contents**
A downland walk with steep and uneven slopes; wear sturdy footwear.

Aiming to see: Dinky and Grizzled Skipper, Glanville Fritillary

Sunday 18 May, 10am

Stockbridge Down, Hampshire

Site: National Trust

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge and 6 miles west of Winchester on the B3049. Park in the east car park, **SO20 6BY**

OS National Grid: **SU 387344**; what3words: **timer.mystified.flagged**

Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Copper

Wednesday 21 May, 10am

Ivy Wood/New Copse Inclosure, New Forest, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the Ivy Wood car park on B3055, **SO42 7UB**, about 1 mile east of Brockenhurst

OS National Grid: **SU 315024**; what3words: **empire.mainly.compliant**

Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered Fritillary; dragonflies and other invertebrates

Saturday 24 May, 1.30pm

Second Glanville Fritillary Walk, **Compton Chine, Isle of Wight**

Site: National Trust

Sue Davies, Tel: 07702 151312

Meet in the NT Afton Down chalk pit car park, off the A305 Military Road, **PO30 4HF**. On the No.12 bus route. A downland walk with some steep steps and uneven ground; wear sturdy footwear

OS National Grid: **SZ 367854**; what3words: **wobbles.handlebar.flooding**

Aiming to see: Glanville Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Small Blue, Adonis Blue

Wednesday 28 May, 10am

Martin Down NNR, Hampshire

Site: Natural England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the nature reserve's main car park off A354, **SP5 5RQ**, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury

OS National Grid: **SU 036201**; what3words: **hiked.remark.spectacle**

Aiming to see: Marsh Fritillary, Adonis Blue, Small Blue

JUNE 2025

Sunday 22 June, 10am

Hawkhill Inclosure/Beaulieu Heath, New Forest, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry England car park, **SO42 7WB**, off the B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu

OS National Grid: **SU 350019**; what3words: **groomed.microfilm.submitted**

Aiming to see: Silver-studded Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Buff Moth

Saturday 28 June, 1.30pm

Newtown Meadows and Walter's Copse, Isle of Wight

Site: National Trust

Nikki Kownacki, Tel: 07929 614423

Meet at the entrance to the Meadows Butterfly Walk on Town Lane, parking at the National Trust car park (charge) close by, **PO30 4PA**.

OS National Grid: **SZ 423906**; what3words: **pricing.cluttered.respects**

Aiming to see: White Admiral, Marbled White, Ringlelet, Brown Argus

Sunday 29 June, 10am

Abbotts Wood Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet at the Abbots Wood Inclosure car park, **GU10 4HA**, off Dockenfield Street, just south-east of the Halfway House pub

OS National Grid: **SU 810410**; what3words: **landowner.likely.splendid**

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary

JULY 2025

Wednesday 2 July, 10am

West Walk, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in West Walk car park, **PO17 6JD**, signed off Hundred Acres Road, east of Wickham

OS National Grid: **SU 596122**; what3words: **rehearsed.translate.mindset**

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary

Saturday 5 July, 1.30pm

Mottistone Down, Isle of Wight

Site: National Trust

Nikki Kownacki, Tel: 07929 614423

Meet in the Jubilee Car Park, Lynch Lane, Brighstone, **PO30 4JH**. A downland walk with uneven ground, steep slopes and chalk pits; wear sturdy footwear

OS National Grid: **SZ 420845**; what3words: **oxidation.serves.contents**

Aiming to see: Dark Green Fritillary, Chalk Hill Blue, Brown Argus

Wednesday 9 July, 10am

Whiteley Walk, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the Whiteley Outlet Village car park, **PO15 7PD**, opposite M&S (max 3 hours free before payment) reached off Whiteley Way from M27 J9.

OS National Grid: **SU 531096**; what3words: **dares.rationing.listening**

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral.

Sunday 13 July, 10am

Farley Mount, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire County Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in Spindle Trees car park, **SO21 2PA**, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks

OS National Grid: **SU 420292**; what3words: **pull.dispose.clenching**

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger Moth

Wednesday 16 July, 10am

Micheldever Wood, Hampshire

Site: Forestry England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in Micheldever Wood car park, **SO24 9UB**, off Chillandham Lane, south-east of Micheldever

OS National Grid: **SU 530362**; what3words: **turkey.grumbles.strapping**

Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary

Wednesday 16 July, 2pm

Abbotstone Down, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire County Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the reserve's car park **SO24 9DT**, on the B3046, north of Old Alresford

OS National Grid: **SU 585361**; what3words: **cassettes.voter.people**

Aiming to see: Marbled White, Dark Green Fritillary, Purple Emperor

Saturday 19 July, 1.30pm

Kemphill Moor Copse, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight

Site: Forestry England

Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

Meet at Ashley Cemetery, **PO33 4BS**, at 1pm as parking is *very limited* at the site (entrance on Rowlands Lane) or contact Kay about a lift.

A woodland ride walk

OS National Grid: **SZ 577897**; what3words: **judges.rebounder.shape**
Aiming to see: White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (including Valezina) and Purple Hairstreak

Saturday 26 July, 1.30pm

Mount Joy, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight

Site: Isle of Wight Council

Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

Meet in Whitepit Lane, Carisbrooke, **PO30 1ND**, by the fish and chip shop near the junction with Elm Grove, and close to the junction with footpath N24, along which the walk up to Mount Joy proceeds. Some steps are encountered on the route. Car parking is *very limited* so leave plenty of time to find a space

OS National Grid: **SZ 496883**; what3words: **material.hotspot.unpainted**

Aiming to see: Chalk Hill and Common Blue, Brown Argus and Wall Brown

AUGUST 2025

Wednesday 13 August, 10am

Soberton Down, St Clair's Meadow and River Meon, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire County Council; Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the village hall car park, Soberton, **SO32 3PF**

OS National Grid: **SU 611166**; what3words: **paler.inhaled.luxury**

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak

Saturday 16 August, 1.30pm

Brading Downs, Isle of Wight

Site: Isle of Wight Council

Emma Brown, Tel: 07817 504992

Meet at the most easterly car park on Brading Down Road, **PO36 0ES**. A downland walk, uneven and steep ground in places; wear sturdy footwear.

OS National Grid: **SZ 601867**; what3words: **divisible.vibrate.cleanser**

Aiming to see: Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue

Sunday 17 August, 10am

Broughton Down, Hampshire

Site: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

To avoid a rough track up to the reserve (SU296325), park in Buckholt Road, **SO20 8DA**, west out of Broughton, or in the village, from which walk along Queenswood Road, bear right along the B3084 then go left along Buckholt road; where this ends take the middle of the three ongoing tracks to climb to the reserve

OS National Grid: **SU 304327**; what3words: **them.culling.huts**

Aiming to see: Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonia Blue, Chalk Hill Blue

Wednesday 20 August, 10am

Sipton Bellinger, Hampshire

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the village hall car park, **SP9 7TL**

OS National Grid: **SU 229456**; what3words: **headlight.panning.smooth**

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak, Wall Brown, Magpie Moth, Oak Eggar Moth

Wednesday 27 August, 10am

Portsmouth Hill

Site: Portsmouth City Council

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet at Widley Walk car park, **PO6 3LS**, off B2177, adjacent to The Churchillian pub, just east of Fort Widley

OS National Grid: **SU 660064**; what3words: **store.juror.lock**

Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak, possible Wall Brown, Oak Eggar Moth

Sunday 31 August, 10am

Old Winchester Hill NNR, Hampshire

Site: Natural England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the nature reserve's car park, **GU32 1HW**, which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places; wear sturdy footwear

OS National Grid: **SU 645214**; what3words: **overhear.dramatic.handyman**

Aiming to see: Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper, Clouded Yellow

SEPTEMBER 2025

Wednesday 3 September, 10am

Beacon Hill NNR, Hampshire

Site: Natural England

Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 07752 182340

Meet in the reserve car park, **SO32 3LG**, Beacon Hill lane, west of Warnford and north-west of Exton; wear sturdy footwear

OS National Grid: **SU 598227**; what3words: **credible.swordfish.rocky**

Aiming to see: Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Copper, Clouded Yellow

Saturday 6 September, 1.30pm

Thorness Bay, Isle of Wight

Site: Parkdean Resorts

Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

Meet in the lane on the north side of Thorness Bay Holiday Park, **PO31 8NJ**. Park on the roadside with consideration; field walk with some uneven ground

OS National Grid: **SZ 453931**; what3words: **vines.eternity.annual**

Aiming to see: Small Copper, Clouded Yellow, Wall Brown, Brown Argus

Newsletter Production

Editor: Kevin Freeborn

Designer: Dan Powell, email. danpowell11@btinternet.com

Artworks: Rosemary Powell, www.powellwildlifeart.com

Cover painting: Small Tortoiseshell

Printed by: Hampshire Printing Services, Winchester.

www.hants.gov.uk/printing

It feels eerily strange that recent BC history is repeating itself. In 2021, H&IOW Branch Main Committee resigned en bloc when the BC leadership removed responsibility for managing our reserves with no input into the decision from the branch. This spring, there's déjà vu over crucial restructuring plans.

The 'process' followed in this restructuring means yet again that there has been no input from Main Committee members, while the BC leadership team cannot reveal publicly any meaningful detail at this juncture. And so there is now a void between the branch and BC. I asked BC head office for some guidance for members: the statement I received is on p2.

I've been a branch member since 1983. Over the years I have welcomed the opportunities to contribute to branch activities and the collective *local* effort in supporting butterfly and moth conservation nationally. I well remember George Yorke's tenure of the branch and the successful acquisition of the Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill reserves in the 1990s, with the subsequent success the branch has had in running and developing its BC reserves. Not actively seeking branch input is disrespectful to the legacy of all H&IOW members that have worked over the years to acquire, maintain and develop the reserves.

My first job was working for the Nature Conservancy Council (as it was back in 1982) and I learnt that, at heart, nature conservation is a field craft. There appears to be a worrying trend towards office-based conservation, and my personal view is that this doesn't serve the best interests of butterflies and moths.

This is the last newsletter I'll be producing. Having had the privilege of editing the newsletter since 2014, covering 26 editions, the time has

come for someone else to take up the reins. I'd like to pass on a huge thank you to Rosemary and Dan, who have contributed so generously to the newsletter over the years, with their wonderful artworks and design skill. My grateful thanks to all H&IOW members who have contributed articles to the newsletter over the years.

Kevin Freeborn

Fully echoing Kevin's words and sentiments, this newsletter will also be our last. A decision arrived at with some sadness and disappointment.

Working with Kevin on the newsletter has been a pleasure, becoming a well-oiled design machine. However I still dread receiving tables that Kevin has created in Word, there are dark arts formatting at work here.

It has been a joy for us working with the folk on the H&IOW Branch Main Committee over the years. Do take up Pete's suggestion on P1 to ask Butterfly Conservation what is unfolding - after all it is your subscriptions that are making a difference for butterflies.

Rosemary and Dan Powell



Lepidoptera
Tale piece ...



Painted Lady, by Sheila Anne Williams